

# INSTREAM FLOW PROTECTION PILOT PROGRAMS SUMMARY AND TIMELINE FEBRUARY 2004

- Chapter 278, laws of 2002, established an instream flow protection pilot program on the Lamprey and Souhegan rivers. (Summary attached)
- \$355,000 for the contract studies needed for the Souhegan River pilot is in the recently-enacted state budget.
- A broad coalition of interests, including BIA and conservation groups, strongly support the pilot program
- The Pilot Program would proceed as follows :
  - DES has adopted rules on 5/29/03 (<http://www.des.state.nh.us/rules/env-ws1900.pdf>)
  - (For each river )DES convenes legislatively defined advisory committees
    - Instream Flow Technical Review Committee ([http://www.des.state.nh.us/rivers/instream/plan\\_tr.htm](http://www.des.state.nh.us/rivers/instream/plan_tr.htm))
    - Water Management Planning Area Advisory Committee ([http://www.des.state.nh.us/rivers/instream/plan\\_wmpa.htm](http://www.des.state.nh.us/rivers/instream/plan_wmpa.htm))
  - DES, with advisory committee input, procures contractors and performs studies:
    - Protected Instream Flow Study
    - Water Management Plan
  - DES holds hearings, revises studies and plans, and adopts them
  - Finally, DES and the Legislative Review Committee report to the legislature by December 1, 2008

## DRAFT TIMELINE

### For Souhegan River Instream Flow Protection Pilot Program

1/15/03	DES receives qualifications statements from consultants (8)
2/6/04	First Souhegan TRC meeting (9:30, at DES)
2/11/04	G&C approves WMPAAC nominations
3/04	First Souhegan WMPAAC meeting
4/04	Souhegan Contractor selection committee reviews proposals
5/04	Souhegan Study contractor selected
6/04	<i>Federal funds received for Lamprey pilot project*</i>
7/04	Souhegan Contract signed, studies begin
3/05	Draft Protected Instream Flow Study for Souhegan
8/05	DES establishes Protected Flows, Draft Water Management Plan
2/06	DES adopts Water Management Plan for Souhegan
8/06	Joint DES/ legislative hearing and report to the legislature
8/07	DES final public hearing on pilot program
8/08	DES final report to legislature

*\*Lamprey River Pilot Program schedule is expected to lag the Souhegan Pilot by 6 to 8 months*